GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
POOR QUALITY OF FOOD ON RUNNING TRAINS
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for supplying poor quality of food on the running trains ;

(b) whether vendors are allowed to roam about freely on the running trains who often commit a lot of thefts ; and

(c) if so, whether the Government would take cognizance of this and improve the quality of food quality especially on long distance trains ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) Food quality is generally satisfactory .

(b) No, Sir. Unauthorised hawking /vending in trains and stations premises is a punishable offence under Railways Act. Regular checks are conducted to curb this menace in trains and station premises and persons apprehended are dealt with as per provisions of Railway Act.

(c) Unauthorised hawking on railway stations and trains is punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989. Railway administration conducts special drives from time to time to control unauthorised hawking through prosecution and imposing penalties on such activities. To ensure quality , hygiene and satisfactory catering services, Railways have taken various steps which includes, use of quality raw material from approved sources, introduction of casserole meals in place of open Thalis in Mail/Express trains, use of Eco-friendly packaging materials, supply of ISI approved safe packaged drinking water, etc. Regular inspections are carried out at various level and strict punitive action taken against the defaulters.